

§ 171.27

appeal brief, the National Futures Association shall file with the Proceedings Clerk an answering brief.

(b) *Contents of answering brief.* The contents of the answering brief generally shall be consistent with those set forth in § 171.25(b) but may omit a statement of the issues and a statement of the case if the National Futures Association does not dispute the issues or the statement of the case contained in the appeal brief.

(c) *Length of the answering brief.* Without prior leave of the Commission, the answering brief may not exceed thirty five pages, exclusive of any table of contents, table of cases, index and appendix containing transcripts of testimony, exhibits, statutes, rules, regulations or similar materials.

§ 171.27 Limited participation by interested persons.

(a) Upon motion of any interested person or, on its own motion, the Commission may permit, or solicit, limited participation in the proceeding by such interested person. A motion for leave to participate in the proceeding shall be filed promptly, shall identify the interest of that person and shall show why participation in the proceeding by that person would serve the public interest. If the Commission determines that participation would serve the public interest, it shall by order establish a supplementary briefing schedule for the interested person and the parties to the proceeding.

(b) For purposes of this subsection, *interested person* shall include parties and any other persons who might be adversely affected or aggrieved by the outcome of a proceeding; their officers, agents, employees, associates, affiliates, attorneys, accountants or other representatives; and any other person having a direct or indirect pecuniary or other interest in the outcome of a proceeding.

§ 171.28 Participation by Commission staff.

The Division of Enforcement, the Division of Clearing and Intermediary Oversight or the Division of Market Oversight may participate in any proceeding by filing a notice of appearance. Such a notice shall be filed and

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served on or before the twentieth day following the date of service of its brief by the National Futures Association. The Commission shall by order establish a supplementary briefing schedule for the Commission staff and other parties to the proceeding. If it concludes that participation of the Commission staff will not serve the public interest, the Commission shall prohibit further participation.

[55 FR 41068, Oct. 9, 1990, as amended at 67 FR 62353, Oct. 7, 2002]

Subpart C—Commission Review of Final Decisions in Disciplinary, Membership Denial and Registration Actions

§ 171.30 Scope of review.

On review, the Commission may, in its discretion and after appropriate consideration of the notice given to the parties, consider *sua sponte* any issues arising from the record before it and may base its determination thereon. The Commission may also limit its consideration to those issues specifically raised in the parties' briefs, treating all other issues as waived.

§ 171.31 Commission review in the absence of an appeal.

(a) *Request by Commission staff.* At any time prior to the effective date of a final decision of the National Futures Association in a disciplinary, membership denial or registration action, the Division of Enforcement, the Division of Clearing and Intermediary Oversight or the Division of Market Oversight may file and serve a memorandum requesting the Commission to institute review of the National Futures Association proceeding. The filing of such a memorandum shall stay the effective date of the decision at issue for twenty days.

(b) *Response by the National Futures Association.* The National Futures Association may file a response to the memorandum of the Commission staff within fifteen days of the service of the memorandum.

(c) *Commission determination of staff request.* To preserve the status quo while it determines whether review is